

ought to pay their bills. My colleagues on the other side want to hold the debt ceiling hostage, leaving Social Security recipients and veterans potentially without their pensions or benefits.

Does that make any sense? If we default on our debt, over 6 million jobs could be diminished. Seniors may not get their benefits for a period of time. Costs will skyrocket. Some economists indicate we could put \$12 trillion of American savings at risk if it were extended in this gamesmanship, this attempt to stare each other down, on whether or not we lift the debt ceiling.

That makes no sense. That is risky business. We ought to raise our debt ceiling and pay our bills, and I think there is common agreement that we ought to get our debt under control.

As a Blue Dog, our focus and purpose of being is in the area of fiscal responsibility. As a matter of fact, the last American President that balanced the budget was President Bill Clinton. That was a while ago.

I think that there is common bipartisan agreement to focus on waste, on fraud, and abuse. I mean, those are the buzzwords, right? If we could only focus on waste, fraud, and abuse. But no one wants to highlight, well, how will that impact Social Security? How will that impact other mandatory spending that we have all committed to on a bipartisan basis?

The way to do this is for Republicans and Democrats to come together, separate from raising the debt ceiling, and agree to focus on two things that cause debt—expenditures and revenues.

If we can get an agreement on what we think the Nation's responsibility to be on our priorities for expenditures and the necessary revenues to pay for them, then, only then, would we get our deficit under control, which is what, by the way, President Bill Clinton was able to do a while ago on a bipartisan basis.

So let's get real. Let's not hold the American people hostage, our economy, or the global economy as we play fast and loose with this talk and notion of whether or not to lift the debt ceiling. We must lift the debt ceiling because it is the responsible thing to do.

I ask my colleagues on the other side: Let's come together, let's work on fiscal responsibility in a bipartisan fashion because we should. It is obviously an important, critical issue as we move forward. Let's not play fast and loose with whether or not we are going to be deadbeats and whether or not we are going to pay our bills. That is putting the American economy at risk. It is something we should not do.

HONORING MASTER SGT. JOSEPH KAPACZIEWSKI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am here with a very heavy heart to honor Master Sergeant Joseph

Kapaczewski, a member of the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

□ 1030

Army Rangers are some of the most elite soldiers in the world, and Master Sergeant Kapaczewski, nicknamed Kap, was no exception.

In April 2010, while serving in eastern Afghanistan, his team of Army Rangers was locked in combat with a group of armed insurgents. When one of his comrades was hit, Kap sprinted through the fire to provide aid. With the help of a fellow Ranger, they dragged the wounded soldier to safety, actions which earned Kap an Army Commendation Medal with valor.

Kap's actions would be remarkable under any conditions, but considering his experiences from a few years earlier, they were inconceivable.

A native of Connecticut, Kap enlisted in the United States Army following his senior year of high school in September 2001, just days before the 9/11 attacks. In 2002, he was deployed to Afghanistan, and the following year, he parachuted into Iraq for the initial invasion.

With only 2 days left in his fifth deployment to Iraq in 2005, Kap's convoy was ambushed by heavy fire. A grenade exploded inches away from Kap after falling through the hatch of his vehicle. Shrapnel ripped through his body, shattering his right leg and severing an artery in his right arm.

Severely wounded, Kap collected himself, directed his vehicle to cover, and alerted the rest of the convoy to the attack. It wasn't until then that he allowed his wounds to be treated. Kap was evacuated to Walter Reed Hospital, and while his arm recovered, his leg did not.

Despite numerous surgeries, his leg was barely functional. Ultimately, there was only one choice—to amputate it. With the pain gone, Kap was fitted with a prosthetic, and he completed hundreds of hours of physical therapy. He had one sole objective during his difficult and lengthy recovery: He wanted to return to combat with his unit.

Everyone thought it would be impossible for Kap to achieve that goal. No one under his circumstances had ever returned to combat, and they agreed Kap had completed his service to our Nation. Kap didn't care. He completed the 12-mile ruck march test, parachuted with a combat load, and not only regained his squad leader title but was promoted to platoon sergeant.

Kap became the first Ranger in United States Army history to return to combat action with a prosthetic limb. He was awarded the Bronze Star with valor and a Purple Heart, among numerous other decorations. Kap was deployed to combat 11 times to fight the global war on terrorism, five of which were while he had a prosthetic leg.

He wrote a book about it called "Back in the Fight."

There is more to any of our soldiers or warriors than what they do in uniform. I have had multiple friends reach out to me who talked about the impact that Kap had on them as a leader and as a friend, whether it was riding motorcycles together or just hanging out after a tough day at work, in training, or any other way. He never lost sight of how he came to be where he was.

Unfortunately, Kap's life ended far too soon last week at the age of 40 due to a significant enemy our veterans face right here at home: suicide.

Our Nation has a moral obligation to not only prepare and equip the servicemembers we send into harm's way but to support and care for them when their duty is done. Yet, we have drastically failed countless numbers of our veterans who have sacrificed everything, including their lives, to protect us.

President Lincoln's promise to care for the men and women who have "borne the battle" is one of the most important functions of our government, and we must do better.

Kap's wife, Kimberly, and his sons, Wyatt and Cody, as well as the rest of his family and friends, are in my prayers through this difficult time.

Kap will always be remembered by many for his warrior spirit and his extraordinary story of resiliency that made him an inspiration and a military legend.

Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of lyrics to a song one of my friends, Darryl Worley, sings called "The 22."

Let me share a few of the lyrics:

You can't unsee what I saw
You can't get back what I lost
I've lost a wife
Five brothers
My kids and the man I was
I thought that I left the front lines
But the fight for my life rages on
We've lost 21 soldiers in only a day
And that's the unthinkable truth
So I'll lay down my gun
And I'll soldier on, and I will not be 22
I'll lay down my gun
I'll soldier on, and I will not be 22.

At the end of his journey, the Apostle Paul said: I fought the good fight; I have kept the faith; and I have finished the race.

I pray that everyone would live a full and natural life, fight that battle, and never surrender to it.

I thank you, Kap.

RESTORING AMERICANS' TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROBERT GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass the TRUST Act to ban individual stock trading by Members of Congress and their spouses.

Now, Representatives are elected to serve their communities back home, and this bill builds trust and makes important reforms. While the American people are working hard to keep

their small businesses afloat and keep food on the table, the last thing Members of Congress should be doing is trading stocks with any inside information.

As we work to restore Americans' trust in government, this is a common-sense step in ensuring that Americans throughout the country have no doubt about the work that we were sent here to do. This bill ensures more transparency in our government and is another step forward as we make our Congress more accountable to the people.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored that this is my first cosponsored bill in the House.

MONTHLY COMMITMENT CHECKLIST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a few of the ways that I am keeping my commitment to the people of the Big First.

A few weeks ago, I released my commitment to the Big First, which is a legislative roadmap for the 118th Congress that details my plans for an economy that is strong, a government that is accountable, a future that is built on freedom, and a nation that is safe.

Here are some of the ways I am working to get America back on track.

To create an economy that is strong, I voted "yes" on the Family and Small Business Taxpayer Protection Act, which the House just passed. Kansas families and small businesses are already paying the price of President Biden's inflation tax. The last thing we need is 87,000 more IRS agents and 1.2 million more audits.

I voted "yes" on the Family and Small Business Taxpayer Protection Act because it is a clear-cut way to fight back against one of the most egregious pieces of legislation from the last Congress.

The \$72 billion of taxpayer money that Washington Democrats allocated to the IRS last year would have ballooned the agency to a size larger than the Pentagon, State Department, FBI, and Border Patrol combined. I am committed to creating an economy that is strong by stopping President Biden's audit army, and I am keeping my commitment.

To create a government that is accountable, I voted "yes" on the Strategic Production Response Act, which the House also passed. President Biden has been playing fast and loose with one of our country's most important national security assets. His administration's energy policies have caused prices to skyrocket at the pump, and using the Strategic Petroleum Reserve as a political tool to mask that failure has led to severe U.S. energy insecurity and depletion of our oil reserves, which poses a threat to our national security.

I voted "yes" on the Strategic Production Response Act, which is a step

toward ending President Biden's war on fossil fuels, empowering domestic energy producers, and resurrecting American energy independence by protecting our SPR from an administration that clearly doesn't understand how important it is. I made a commitment to hold the government accountable, and I am keeping that commitment.

To create a future that is built on freedom, I voted "yes" on the Born-Alive Survivors Protection Act, which the House passed. This vote was crystal clear: If a child is born alive following an abortion or an attempted abortion, that newborn child deserves the same standard of medical care that any newborn deserves.

It is horrifying that we need to address issues like this in a free country, but Washington Democrats have advocated for unthinkable, gruesome policies that constitute an all-out attack on human life. I am proud to be a pro-life Member of Congress, and I will always support policies that protect life. I made a commitment to building a future based on freedom by supporting the God-given right to life held by unborn American citizens, and I am keeping my commitment.

To create a nation that is safe, I will vote to denounce the horrors of socialism later this week. I hope that all of my colleagues can get behind this. Socialism ideology runs counter to everything we stand for in America because it requires the concentration of power, which results in totalitarianism. Democracy, on the other hand, enshrines individual liberty and gives people a voice in who governs them. Socialism creates famine, devastation, and bloodshed. It tears families apart, creates exile and mass theft, and flatly denies individual rights as fundamental as personal property.

You don't have to look very far, Mr. Speaker, into the history of socialism to find these abuses and atrocities. They happen every time a country tries socialism on for size.

It seems that certain people in America would like to experiment with socialism, but enough socialist experiments have been conducted already, and the verdict is clear: Socialism has no place on American soil.

I made a commitment to ensuring that America is a nation that is safe, which means continuing to stand strong as a world leader in democracy and freedom. I am keeping that commitment.

When we reflect on our work, it helps us to stay the course in the future, and we still have a lot of work to do in the 118th Congress. We need to create a balanced budget and strengthen the supply chain. We need to lower taxes and secure the southern border. We need to fully fund a robust police and military. We need a comprehensive reauthorization of the farm bill with strengthened crop insurance. We need a maintained stepped-up basis tax provision and global food security legislation that stops wars before they start.

I will be keeping all of these commitments to the people of the Big First, and I will continue to spend time thinking, praying, and reflecting on how best to serve the people in my district. I did not come to Congress to be a caretaker in the slow demise of America. I am here to fight and work to make America stronger. With all of us working together, our brightest days are yet to come.

RESTORING THE AMERICAN DREAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my first general remarks on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, and I would like to start by thanking my predecessor, Jim Langevin, for his 22 years of distinguished service representing the people of Rhode Island's Second District.

As the first quadriplegic ever elected to Congress, Jim was no stranger to life's challenges. No matter what was thrown Jim's way, he always persevered.

For over two decades, Jim Langevin made Rhode Islanders proud through his leadership here in this body. He became widely recognized as an expert on national security and particularly cybersecurity. He was a trailblazer for the disability community and shepherded several key pieces of legislation that have made our society more accessible for all.

Most of all, Rhode Islanders always knew that they could count on Jim to listen to their problems and to advocate for their families here in Washington, D.C.

I thank Jim for all his years of service to Rhode Island.

I am so honored that Rhode Islanders have chosen me to take up the mantle of representing the Second District. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity, and I feel a great sense of responsibility to deliver for the working people who sent me here to fight on their behalf.

I enter Congress as a proud descendant of immigrants. My grandparents came of age during the Depression.

On my mother's side was Grandpa Bob, the son of Irish immigrants who grew up in Worcester, Massachusetts. After serving in the Marines in World War II, Bob took a job as a steelworker at a company that made airplane parts.

On my father's side was Grandpa Louis, the son of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe who was raised in New York City and served in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II. After he returned, Louis worked as a bookkeeper in New York for a company that canned tomatoes.

Neither of them worked in particularly glamorous jobs, but with a lot of hard work and a little help from the GI Bill, these two children of immigrants